



Intent

Our department aims to offer a rich and varied curriculum that will prepare our students for life in a culturally diverse and everchanging world. The content of this course moves beyond the traditional study of religions and adds the complementary study of ethical issues and wider philosophical questions that religions attempt to address.

Our aims include:

- Promoting an understanding and appreciation for different beliefs and cultures
- Encouraging an enthusiasm to question and learn from the wider world.
- Promoting mutual respect, tolerance and understanding
- Developing reflection amongst our students; so that they reflect on their beliefs and attitudes.
- Facilitating the expression of ideas, attitudes, and beliefs in a constructive manner
- The debating of different ideas in an objective way
- Allowing students to think critically about issues affecting them, their community, and the wider world.

Britain is a diverse society with many identities and ideas. Our students will need to be able to navigate their way in this everchanging landscape, and while we cannot predict the society of the future, we can inculcate tolerance and critical thinking that will always be of use.

This subject is currently delivered at Key Stage 3 level only, but the intention is to expand the provision to Key Stage 4 in the future. To achieve the Key Stage 4 entitlement for students and deliver a worthwhile course of study, planning is underway to offer the AQA Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies to all students from 2022-23.

Curriculum Principles

Entitlement: All pupils have the right to study the core units of the United Learning RS curriculum (see programme of study), which expose students to key religious and non-religious views that have deeply affected the lives of people.

Coherence: The curriculum is planned with carefully sequenced lessons and aims to provide a narrative to religious and non-religious views. The curriculum considers the disciplines which sit underneath the subject and makes powerful links to English, History and Geography in particular.

Mastery: Students are expected to 'get better' at PRE as they progress through the curriculum and build an understanding of the key themes across beliefs and experience, and a holistic view of religion in the world.

Adaptability: The course is provided by UL, but this is adapted locally to suit the needs and situation of the students in Irlam & Cadishead. Topics which are assessed in the UL end of year assessments are standardised across the trust but will be adapted to suit the learning needs of the students. ICA makes adaptations to suit local settings and adapts lessons to ensure compatibility with student's expectations.

Representation: The curriculum is planned with diversity and inclusion in mind. All students should see themselves and things that they can appreciate within the curriculum as it covers a great variety of traditions and perspectives. We also explicitly deal with issues of equality within the curriculum.



Education with character: Through exposure to the big ideas of religious and non-religious belief, students have explicit opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Educational Visits are taken in support of taught content. For example, Y8 visit a mosque when studying Islam. The intention is to place the student's studies in context and allow them to make comparisons of places of worship.

Implementation

During the two-week timetable, the students will receive two sixty-minute lessons of PRE. The course is structured to deliver variety without too long a period of studying Philosophy, Religion or Ethics only.

The topics studied do not sit neatly within a single half-term and run on a weekly basis across the year. In doing so we can ensure that no gaps or lessons are having to be missed in a bid to keep to a schedule that would change based on the structure of the school year and bank holidays.

ICA employs the special subject advisor of United Learning to help steer the relevancy and rigour of the taught content. ICA plans and prepares the course of study whilst ensuring it meets the needs of students and the standards of United Learning.

Diversity

In line with the ICA equalities objectives and equalities policy, PRE is aiming to be as objective as possible in the teaching and representation of different beliefs and cultures. Being a secular establishment, we do not favour one perspective, but we recognise that there is a majority who are more familiar with Christian concepts and a smaller population of students from other religious backgrounds and cultural traditions.

Teaching staff are expected to remain objective in their attitudes and approach each lesson in as equal and impartial a manner as possible.

Students are encouraged to share their beliefs where they feel comfortable, and this is appropriate for the lesson. A culture of openness and acceptance is to be maintained so that all views and perspectives can be considered and shared.